

# The Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

# The Inquiry

**Matthew 18:21** Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

# The Instruction

**Matthew 18:22** Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

# The Instruction

**Luke 17:3** "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

# The Instruction

**Ephesians 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

# The Illustration

**Matthew 18:23** “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.”

# The Illustration

**Daniel 7:10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

# The Illustration

**Matthew 18:25** “But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

<sup>26</sup> The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

<sup>27</sup> Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.”

# The Illustration

**Colossians 2:13** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,  
<sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.  
<sup>15</sup> Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

# The Illustration

**Isaiah 64:6** But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

# The Illustration

**Matthew 18:28** “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’<sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’<sup>30</sup> And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.”

# The Illustration

**Leviticus 19:18** “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

**Ephesians 4:31** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.  
<sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

# The Illustration

**Romans 12:19** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

# The Illustration

**Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

# The Illustration

**Matthew 18:31** "So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done."

# The Illustration

**Matthew 18:32** "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.<sup>33</sup> Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'"<sup>34</sup> And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him."

# The Illustration

**Matthew 18:35** “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

# The Illustration

**Matthew 6:14** “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

# The Illustration

**Psalm 130:3** Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? <sup>4</sup> But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.

**Psalm 103:10** He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. <sup>11</sup> For his un-failing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. <sup>12</sup> He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

# The Illustration

**Ephesians 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

**Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."